



Quarterly News

Letter from the Director

Dear DDES Customer:

During the aftermath of our historic windstorm last December, DDES employees stepped-up to the plate like never before! Department employees were nimble, pragmatic and helped members of the public who were in a terrible position post-storm. DDES offered free wind damage inspections to citizens in the Unincorporated Area and **completed nearly 100 extra inspections in a month**. Damaged structures were inspected within one business day of the citizen request.



Stephanie Warden

“Given safety concerns and the emergency conditions much of unincorporated King County is operating under right now, we thought waiving the regular \$319.99 damage assessment fee made sense,” said King County Executive Ron Sims at the time. Sims further said, “I know the fee waiver is a small consolation if you are faced with major wind damage to your home or property, but this can help lighten the burden.”

DDES employees also advised the public on emergency and hazard tree removal. Employees at DDES handled between ten and fifteen extra calls a day that were directly the result of the November flood and the December windstorm.

> In This Issue

Letter from the Director 1

What is the public saying about DDES 2

The new and improved DDES website is up 3

Successful Getting to Yes with DDES Workshop 3

Misti update 3

DDES customers now have a new incentive to go green 4

What is the status of my permit? 5

Shoreline management review launched in King County 6

What is the Preferred Consultant Program? 7

Final 2006 DDES Statistics 7

Proposed amendments to state-adopted International Building, Fire Codes, and Uniform Plumbing Code 8

Questions — just ask us 8

What is the public saying about DDES?

Dear Randy (Sandin),

My husband, William, and I thank you very much for the quick response to our situation regarding our fallen trees. In 52 years we have never gotten such service. Greg Sutton was terrific! He explained all our options and had so much information. He went out of his way to help us, even reminding us to be sure the logger was licensed and bonded. We can't give him enough praise. This experience leads us to believe you have a great department. Thanks again.

— **Frances Manning (1-3-07)**

To Whom It May Concern:

Your inspector, Mr. Rick White, was extremely helpful, patient and kind, and I'd like to commend both his work and King County for the courteous help I've received. After my experience with Mr. White, I look forward to working with your capable inspectors in the future.

— **Daniel Termure (2-6-07)**

Jim and Chris:

This experience with King County staff is uniquely positive for me and I would like to ask you to join me in acknowledging their extraordinary services to the community. As supervisors, you should also be proud of your excellent staff. In closing, thank you very much for your help and I look forward to the opportunities to meet you again at your DDES office. Have a nice weekend!

— **An Pham (4-14-07)**

Letter from the Director — *Continued from page 1*

Additionally, we received anecdotal input from DDES customers during the winter months. The three comments that made me the most proud have been reprinted inside the newsletter. **Enjoy reading this update and have a great spring!**

Sincerely,



Stephanie Warden, Director
Department of Development and Environmental Services

The new and improved DDES website is up

In this day and age, we are kidding ourselves if we think that the public's number one source of information is anything but the internet. With that in mind, DDES has **transformed our website** into something that is friendlier to the eye and will help customers navigate the DDES waters a little more easily. Check it out at www.metrokc.gov/permits

Successful Getting to Yes with DDES Workshop

Thanks to those DDES applicants, consultants and members of the public who attended our Getting To Yes With DDES Workshop a couple months ago. We covered topics like critical areas designations, the critical areas review process, submitting quality applications, avoiding costly errors, intake, addressing, voluntary preapplication meetings, free technical assistance, plan review, fire flow, project management, site review, bonding, inspections, permit approval and effective communication with neighbors. Be looking for **future opportunities** to attend one of our informative applicant workshops.

Misti update

Misti, a two-year-old Yellow Labrador Retriever, is the newest member of the King County Fire/Arson Investigation Unit. Misti has completed 18 fire investigations in various jurisdictions since she starting working for the citizens of King County in September of 2006. Keep up the good work, Misti!



DDES customers now have a new incentive to go green

Single-family residential developers have a new way to “go green,” thanks to a new incentive program from King County and the City of Seattle.

The King County/Seattle Built Green™ Incentive provides funding for single-family residential, town home and community development projects to help offset the cost of certifying and designing innovative projects that meet green building standards.

The grants provide between \$2,500 and \$15,000 in financial incentives depending on the project and level of environmentally sustainable design and building elements employed.

Built Green grants overview:

Built Green Certification Level	Single Family (1 unit)	Single Family Development (4 or more units)	Community Development (10 or more units plus communities certification at the 3-star level)
4-star	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000
5-star	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000

Incentives for the development industry to reduce their impact on the environment and conserve valuable natural resources have become increasingly important as local governments draw the connection between water conservation and quality, stormwater runoff and residential development, said Katie Spataro, project manager for King County’s “Green Tools” program.

The new grants will be competitively awarded and are funded through the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks’ Water and Land Resources Division and Seattle Public Utilities.

Built Green is a residential building program that provides a rating system for single- and

multi-family housing projects, remodels and community developments. The program certifies projects at the one-through five- star level based on the number of points a project earns in categories that highlight energy and water conservation, healthy materials, and minimized impacts to the environment.

Spataro said King County helped develop the program in partnership with the Master



Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties, and relies on Built Green as an industry benchmark for qualifying green residential development.

The King County/Seattle Built Green Incentive was established to encourage developers, builders, and residents building new homes to use green building standards while attempting to address barriers, such as higher upfront costs for projects. Grant award projects

will serve as demonstrations of high performance, replicable, green housing for the region.

Built Green incentive applications and instructions are available online at www.builtgreen.net, and must be submitted by June 8, 2007.

More information is available by contacting Spataro, King County Solid Waste Division, at 206-263-6037, or Katie. Spataro@metrokc.gov.

What is the status of my permit?

- > *Go to the DDES online permit search at www.metrokc.gov/ddes/permits/reports/ to view a generalized permit status.*
- > *Call DDES customer service at 206-296-6600 where staff can research your permit application and tell you which review stations have issued approvals and which review stations are still pending.*
- > *Check with your DDES Project Manager or Project Coordinator if applicable. For proposed projects that are large and/or complicated, a manager or coordinator will have been assigned to the permit. You will have been introduced to that Project Manager early in the intake or review process, and you can call him or her directly for periodic updates.*



Shoreline management review launched in King County

The public is encouraged to participate in a state-mandated review of King County’s program that manages marine areas, lakes and streams in unincorporated areas.

King County is in the first stages of updating its Shoreline Master Program, a set of policies and regulations that determines how major shorelines are managed. Other counties and cities across the state are beginning their program updates, including Snohomish, Pierce and Spokane counties, and the cities of Bellevue, Everett and Auburn.

Four public workshops were scheduled in February to give interested citizens opportunities to learn more about the Shoreline Master Program update, state requirements, and existing shoreline conditions.

The Shoreline Program has not been significantly changed since it was adopted in 1978. The update is required by the Shoreline Management Act, and the Washington Department of Ecology must approve any changes to King County’s Shoreline Master Program.

“Our first step in this two-year process is to listen to residents, and that’s why we’re scheduling workshops throughout the county, and providing a number of ways to receive feedback and keep the public informed,” said King County Executive Ron Sims. “We want to hear from the public — particularly from shoreline property owners — to evaluate existing conditions and determine our goals and standards for shoreline management.”

King County already has comprehensive environmental regulations that apply to shoreline areas, and we will rely on those existing regulations as much as possible to meet the state’s Shoreline Master Program update requirements. **We don’t expect significant changes to environmental regulations as a result of this update.**

The program’s goals are set by state law and include protecting natural resources, increasing public access to shorelines and encouraging businesses such as marinas along the waterfront. King County’s program applies only to unincorporated areas.

King County has launched a new Web site, <http://www.metrokc.gov/shorelines/>, to provide citizens with a wide range of information about the Shoreline Master Program update. The site includes a recently completed draft inventory and analysis of the existing shoreline conditions, plus interactive maps for viewing results.

“Healthy shorelines have multiple benefits for the people of our region,” Sims said. “Clean water, abundant native species and a strong economy all result from protecting our shorelines. This review will also help King County do its part to recover Puget Sound, as Governor Gregoire recently outlined.”

King County has established an online form, <http://www.metrokc.gov/shorelines/>, where the public can comment on the Shoreline Master Program update. The draft King County Shorelines Technical Appendix, a report describing existing shorelines conditions, will also be made available in public libraries as produced.

What is the Preferred Consultant Program?

The Preferred Consultant program offers residential permit customers the option of choosing a consultant from lists DDES maintains of preferred consultants, individuals with a **proven track record of high quality work** in King County.

Because they have met established criteria, customers and DDES staff are assured that the Preferred Consultant will make a quality permit application submittal, which can ultimately save on customers' permit review fees.

DDES developed the Preferred Consultant program in 2004 to make the permitting process more efficient and less costly. Preferred consultants can be used for critical areas review and also for site engineering review for single family homes, which was added to the Preferred Consultant program in 2005.

The program also benefits permit customers by providing easy access to a pool of proven consultants, while benefits to consultants are increased visibility and a marketable certification. Consultant lists can be found on the DDES website.

Permit applicants still have the option of choosing a private consultant who does not participate in the DDES Preferred Consultant Program.

Final 2006 DDES statistics

Wow! We had another great year in 2006!

- DDES employees approved 6,187 permits total
- 4,831 were approved in the Building Services Division (BSD)
- 1,356 in the Land Use Services Division (LUSD).
- 75 short plats were approved
- 24 plats were approved
- 1001 new lots created

As far as non-permit functions or sub-processes like business licenses go:

- LUSD had 866
 - BSD completed 3,154 transactions
 - BSD met their timelines 91% of the time
 - LUSD met their timelines 82% of the time.
- 

Questions? Just ask us

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

- Director**
Stephanie Warden206-296-6700
- Public Affairs Director**
(media relations, publications, web content, customer service)
Tim Attebery206-296-6682
- Human Resources Service Delivery Manager**
Lance King206-296-6612
- Human Resources Manager**
Kathy Graves206-296-6725

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

- Division Director**
Jim Schaber206-296-6684
- Finance Management Supervisor**
(billing procedures and practices)
Elaine Gregory206-296-7139
- Information Systems Supervisor**
Tom McBroom206-296-6706

BUILDING SERVICES DIVISION

- Division Director**
Mike Dykeman206-296-6761
- Intake and Screening Supervisor**
(permit applications)
Chris Ricketts206-296-6750
- Technical Screening/Building Review Supervisor**
Pamela Dhanapal206-296-6731
- Building Inspections Supervisor**
(residential and commercial structures)
Bernard Moore206-296-6762
- Site Engineering and Planning Supervisor**
(drainage review, parking, traffic, landscaping)
Jim Chan206-296-6740

FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION

- Fire Marshal**
(inspections, fire investigations, fire system permits)
John Klopfenstein206-296-7071

LAND USE SERVICES DIVISION

- Division Director**
Joe Miles206-296-7179
- Engineering Review Supervisor**
(final plats and short plats, lot line adjustments)
Jim Sanders206-296-7178
- Current Planning Supervisor**
(preliminary plat and short plats, SEPA, EIS, CUPs, shoreline permits)
Lisa Dinsmore206-296-7171
- Site Development Services Supervisor**
(clearing, grading and forestry permits)
Randy Sandin206-296-6778
- Critical Areas Supervisor**
(wetlands, streams, geo hazards)
Steve Bottheim206-296-7144
- Land Use Inspections Supervisor**
(site infrastructure)
Steve Townsend206-296-7204
- Code Enforcement Supervisor**
(building, environmental and health hazard complaints)
Deidre Andrus206-296-6656

CUSTOMER SERVICE NUMBERS

- DDES Customer Information Line206-296-6600
- Permit Application Appointments206-296-6797
- DDES Billing Hot Line206-296-6659
- DDES Records Center206-296-6696
- Code Enforcement206-296-6680

Proposed amendments to State-adopted International Building, Fire Codes, and Uniform Plumbing Code

The King County Council is currently reviewing an ordinance that will implement minor changes to the building and fire code in unincorporated King County. The purpose of the ordinance is to amend Title 16 and Title 17 of the King County Code in order to implement the 2006 editions of the International Building Code, the International Residential Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Property Maintenance Code, the Uniform Plumbing Code and the International Fire Code.

Alternate Formats Available

206-684-2046 TTY Relay: 206-689-4665